



## Planetary Analog Site Evaluation Card

Last Rated: 27 Oct 2007 (R.Ambrose, M.Heverly,P.Lee)

### SITE Great Sand Dunes National Park

**POC** National Park Service

**E-mail:**

**Tel:**

**LOCATION**      **Country:** USA      **State:** Colorado  
**Coordinates:** 34°47'N, 102°00'W      **Elevation:**  
**Nearest Airfield:** Alamosa      **Distance:** 30 km  
**Map:**



### DESCRIPTION:

**Environment:** Sand Dunes

**Facility:** National Park

**Crew:** N/A

**Experiments:** N/A

**Vehicles:** Rental cars

**Open:** Year-round



### HISTORY

**NASA Involvement:** N/A

**External Partners:** National Park Service

### FIGURES OF MERIT

Site value: 1 (low) to 5 (high)

Aspect	Details	Comment	1-5
<b>EXPLORATION</b>			
Environment	T, P, RH, Insolation, Radiation,...	Great Sand Dunes NP	4
Topography	Available Area / Traverse Range	10+ acres	4
	Slopes	Range of slopes.	4
Terrain	Block/Particle Size & Shape Distrib.	Silt, sand, gravel	3
	Physical Properties	Unconsolidated	4
	Vegetation	Locally clear	4
Subsurface	Structure (Layered, Massive,...)	Layered deposits	4
<b>SCIENCE</b>			
Geology	Composition (Mineral., Geochem.)	Granitic	2
	Features (Surface, Subsurface)	Dunes	3
	Processes (Impact, Volcanism,...)	Wind	3
Biology	Astrobiology (Extremophiles,...)	Halophiles?	3
<b>ACCESS</b>			
Logistics	Airport (Major)	Alamosa. COS 3.0 h	5
	Road	18 Wheelers OK.	4
	Logistics Infrastructure Base Site	Limited	2
	Water & Food	Alamosa.	3
	Power	None	2
	Comms	None	3
	Lodging	Alamosa (30k)	4
	Vehicles	SUVs, Rental OK	4
	Waste Disposal	Limited	5
	Weather (T Range, Rain?)	65 F < T < 85 F	4
Safety	Search & Rescue	Park Rangers	3
	Medical Support, Hospital	Alamosa	2
Security	Controlled Access	Park Rangers	2
E/PO - PA	Education	National Park	4
	Public Outreach - Visual Appeal	National Park	3
	Media	National Park	4
Permits	Access & Land Use Permits	National Park Service	1
Partners	Partner Organizations / Leveraging	National Park Service	2
References	Maps, GIS Data, Publications	National Park Service	5

### EVALUATION SUMMARY

Suitable terrain. Range of slopes. Scenic.

Access to test area problematic: National Park Service  
+ Vegetation barrier. Facilities limited. Security limited.